

REMARKS

Claims 1- 3 and 7-9 and 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,954 (hereinafter “Cookmeyer”). Claims 4-6, 10-12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Cookmeyer and Ma et al., “Mining Event Data for Actionable Patterns,” 2000 (hereinafter “Ma”).

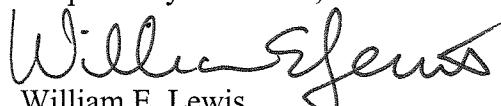
While Applicants believe that the claims in their form prior to this amendment are patentable over Cookmeyer and/or Ma, in the sole interest of expediting the case through to issuance, Applicants have nonetheless canceled claims 1-6 and 8-18 and amended independent claims 7 and 19.

Applicants assert that neither Cookmeyer nor Ma, alone or in combination, disclose a computer-based method of providing decision support to an analyst in accordance with an event management system which manages a network with one or more computing devices, the method comprising the steps of: automatically analyzing, off-line, data representing past events associated with the network of computing devices being managed by the event management system, the automated off-line analysis comprising generation of one or more visualizations of one or more portions of the past event data and discovery of one or more patterns in the past event data; and automatically managing rules off-line, the automated off-line rule management comprising construction and validation of one or more rules formed in accordance with the automated off-line analysis of the past event data, wherein one or more rules are constructed offline and validated offline based directly on at least a portion of the one or more visualizations generated offline from the corresponding offline analysis of the one or more portions of the past event data and the offline discovery of at least a portion of the one or more patterns in the past event data; wherein the past event data is obtained from an event database and the one or more rules are provided to a rule database, the event database and the rule database being associated with an execution system of the event management system; wherein generation of the one or more visualizations of the one or more portions of the past event data further comprises: selecting a subset of the past event data from the event database; generating a visualization of the subset of past event data using a visualization tool;

the analyst reviewing the visualization to determine whether there are any groupings of events that are of interest presented therein; and performing an appropriate action when an event grouping of interest is found; wherein discovery of the one or more patterns in the past event data further comprises: selecting a subset of the past event data from the event database; mining the subset of the past event data to discover the one or more patterns using a mining tool; generating a visualization of the one or more patterns using a visualization tool; the analyst reviewing the visualization to determine whether there are any patterns of interest presented therein; and performing an appropriate action when a pattern of interest is found; wherein validation of the one or more rules further comprises: selecting a subset of the past event data from the event database; finding one or more instances of patterns expressed in terms of left-hand sides of rules; generating a visualization of the one or more pattern instances using a visualization tool; analyzing the left-hand sides of rules using a rule validation tool; displaying results of the analysis operation; the analyst assessing analysis results; and marking the rules as one of validated and not validated based on the assessment by the analyst; wherein construction of the one or more rules further comprises: selecting a subset of the past event data from the event database; mining the subset of the past event data to discover the one or more patterns using a mining tool; assessing significance of the one or more patterns using a visualization tool; constructing the one or more rules from a selected subset of the one or more patterns using a rule construction tool; and writing the one or more rules in the rule database, as recited in amended claim 7. Independent claim 19 recites similar limitations. .

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 7 and 19 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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